

*American women writers, transatlantic studies, and maternal scholarship.*

<sup>1</sup>bcaction.org is the website for a helpful, activist organization

<sup>2</sup>The Canadian Cancer society website, under Breast cancer statistics, states: "Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian women (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer."

<sup>3</sup>The cult of true womanhood was first identified by Barbara Welter. The true woman's transatlantic counterpart is the angel in the house, which is also the title of a poem by Coventry Patmore (1854); literary examples of the type populate the Victorian novel.

<sup>4</sup>Herndl's designation of these narratives as "autobiographies" is problematic since, as she acknowledges, they deal with diagnosis and recovery, and hence, are autobiographies of the cancer rather than of the author. As the ambivalence around the term "survivor" suggests, many breast cancer patients reject being identified by the disease. Herndl's study addresses issues of identity thus explaining in part at least her choice of the term.

<sup>5</sup>Cathy Caruth's work on trauma and, to a lesser degree, Herndl's interpretations of Kelly Oliver's theories on witnessing are suggestive for an understanding of the reactions and responses to being diagnosed with a potentially fatal disease, and the subsequent need to tell about it.

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## KAY R. EGINTON

### The Breeze, Resting

Late summer wind, encouraging  
the phlox  
The breeze rests  
and summer music fills the air.

Age, and the threat of tomorrow,  
diminishes somewhat  
Perhaps this,  
another time only, not the end.

We know much has not  
been part of our experience  
We nod and smile in an amiable way,  
sometimes, but the challenge remains.

Music sublime paints the scene  
of late day  
And sunlight on flowers  
illuminates all for now.

The flowers nodding, smiling for a time.

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